

Safety Lines

Minnesota OSHA 2014: The year in review

Compliance

By Shelly Techar, MNOSHA Management Analyst

Performance review highlights

Each year, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance conducts a review of its projected performance as defined in its performance plan, which is generated prior to the start of the federal fiscal-year (FFY), October 1.

In FFY 2014, MNOSHA Compliance:

- visited 2,556 establishments and identified 4,996 hazards;
- generated safety inspection results within 17 days on average;
- generated health inspection results within 23 days on average;
- resolved contested cases within 135 days on average;
- conducted 117 outreach presentations with an average participation level of 37 people; and
- responded to approximately 3,904 phone calls and 1,748 written requests for assistance, primarily email messages, with a majority of these inquiries answered within one day.

Forty-six percent of the total employee health and safety complaints resulted in an on-site inspection with an average of 3.4 days response time. The remaining complaints were handled via the phone and fax system (nonformal complaints).

MNOSHA Compliance continues to provide a variety of information on its website, including printable handouts and information about its audio visual library, which offers a selection of videos and DVDs for loan. The website also provides links to other sites where safety and health regulations and other related information can be accessed. The website is updated regularly and may be accessed at www.dli.mn.gov/MnOsha.asp.

For more information about the performance of MNOSHA Compliance, the annual report will be posted online during the second half of the calendar year at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Reports.asp.

Workplace Safety Consultation

By Dave Ferkul, MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

Consultation Annual Project Report (CAPR)

Minnesota OSHA's vision is to be a leader in providing safety and health consultation services to Minnesota employers and employees and make Minnesota's workplaces the safest in the nation. To help accomplish this goal, MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) follows a five-year strategic plan, based on the MNOSHA Compliance plan, to focus efforts on industries where safety and health assistance is needed most.

Each year, an annual report is compiled that summarizes WSC efforts and accomplishments toward meeting the strategic plan. The report includes annual goals and results for consultation visits, training and outreach activities. The report is completed following each federal fiscal-year.

Consultations, training, technical assistance

During federal-fiscal-year 2014 (begun Oct. 1, 2013), WSC completed 1,083 initial, training and follow-up visits at employer worksites. In addition, 398 interventions were provided – that included formal training presentations, technical assistance and outreach – that directly involved more than 9,300 employers and more than 14,500 employees.

Marketing of services

Marketing of services is an ongoing effort to communicate the benefits of WSC's free safety and health assistance to employers. Through

WSC year in review, continues on page 12 ...

Standards update: *AWAIR list; crane operators; recordkeeping*

By Shelly Techar, MNOSHA Management Analyst

AWAIR list revisions adopted

The list of industries required to comply with the A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction (AWAIR) Act was amended to satisfy the statutory requirement that the list be reviewed and updated every two years.

The revision to the industrial classification list in Minnesota Rules 5208.1500 occurred Dec. 29, 2014. The revised list was compiled using 2012 survey data for Minnesota from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employers in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) industries that are on the list will have six months from the date the revised list is adopted to implement an AWAIR program for their facilities.

Industries that are not on the list may be added to the list in two years if the incidence or severity rates for the industry go above the Minnesota average rates for that year. Updates to this list will be based on the most current injury and illness data available at the time of the update.

Industries with a days-away-from-work, job transfer or restriction (DART) rate (DART cases per 100 full-time-equivalent workers) at or above 1.8 or a total case incidence rate (total recordable cases per 100 full-time-equivalent workers) at or above 3.9 were added to the list. These rates are the 2012 average rates for all Minnesota employers.

AWAIR requires covered employers to develop a written workplace safety and health program that includes:

- an explanation of how managers, supervisors and employees will implement the program;
- how the continued participation of management will be established, measured and maintained;
- the methods that will be used to identify, analyze and control new or existing hazards, conditions and operations;
- how the plan will be communicated to all affected employees;
- how workplace accidents will be reviewed (for example, defining how they will be investigated, how corrective actions will be implemented); and
- how safe work practices and rules will be enforced.

The AWAIR list is available online at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Awair.asp. To be added to the mailing list for notification of future MNOSHA standard activity or other Department of Labor and Industry rulemaking, visit www.dli.mn.gov/Rulemaking.asp.

OSHA extends crane operator certification deadline

On Sept. 26, federal OSHA published a final rule in the *Federal Register* extending the Nov. 10, 2014, deadline by three years for employers to ensure crane operators are certified, now delayed until Nov. 10, 2017. OSHA is also extending its employer duty to ensure crane operators are competent to operate a crane safely, for the same three-year period. The final rule was effective at the federal level Nov. 9, 2014. MNOSHA intends to adopt the update.

Updates to OSHA's recordkeeping rule

In September, OSHA finalized a revision to the requirements of 29 CFR Part 1904, Occupational Injury and Illness Recording and Reporting, which became effective at the federal level Jan. 1. The changes include revising requirements for reporting work-related fatality, injury and illness information to OSHA and updating the list of industry exemptions using new NAICS data.

Minnesota OSHA intends to adopt the new *injury reporting* requirements by March 18, 2015, with an effective date of Oct. 1, 2015. Changes to federal OSHA's *recordkeeping* requirements (for low-hazard industries) will not be adopted by Minnesota OSHA, which is consistent with what is currently in effect in Minnesota.

See Minnesota recordkeeping information at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Recordkeeping.asp and federal recordkeeping information at www.osha.gov/recordkeeping.

Outreach to, resources for Hispanic community members

Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance took part in the Hispanic Legal Resource Fair, sponsored by the Consulate of Mexico, in St. Paul, on Sunday, Nov. 2. MNOSHA Compliance Safety Investigator Robert Servian (pictured at right) said approximately 150 people stopped by the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) table where work-related materials were available and visitors could get their questions answered.



AWAIR program video now available in Spanish

MNOSHA regulations require many employers to develop and use a formal safety and health program, known commonly as an A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction (AWAIR) program. A brief video was developed to explain some of the requirements; it is now available in Spanish, as well as English, at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Awair.asp.

Other DLI materials available in Spanish

Many DLI documents are also available in Spanish online at www.dli.mn.gov/LS/Spanish.asp.

MNOSHA identifies standards cited most often in 2014

After each federal-fiscal-year (October through September), Minnesota OSHA Compliance identifies which standards it cited most frequently. Three fact sheets, identifying citations in the construction industry, in general industry and combined are generated and published online at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/FactSheets.asp.

Minnesota OSHA Compliance's most frequently cited standards, federal-fiscal-year 2014

Standard	Description	Frequency
1926.501	Fall protection in construction	564
Minnesota Rules 5206.0700	Employee right-to-know training	534
Minnesota Statutes 182.653, subd. 8	A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction (AWAIR) program	307
1910.1200	Hazard Communication, i.e., Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling (GHS) labeling and safety data sheet (SDS) training	289
1910.212	Machinery and machine guarding – general requirements	221
1910.147	The control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout)	200
1910.305	Electrical wiring methods, components and equipment in general industry	185
1910.178	Powered industrial trucks	161
1910.134	Respiratory protection	148
Minnesota Rules 5205.0116	Carbon monoxide monitoring	119

S^{OII} sauce Interesting findings from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

Minnesota workplace injury rate holds steady near all-time low

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

The survey estimate of Minnesota’s workplace injury and illness rate for 2013 has remained unchanged from the 2012 rate and is slightly above the all-time low mark in 2011. According to the annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, the state had an estimated 3.9 nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time-equivalent (FTE) workers in all ownership categories in both 2013 and 2012. This is up slightly from the 2011 estimate of 3.8 cases per 100 FTE workers. The figure below shows the incidence rate trends for the 2003 through 2013 period.

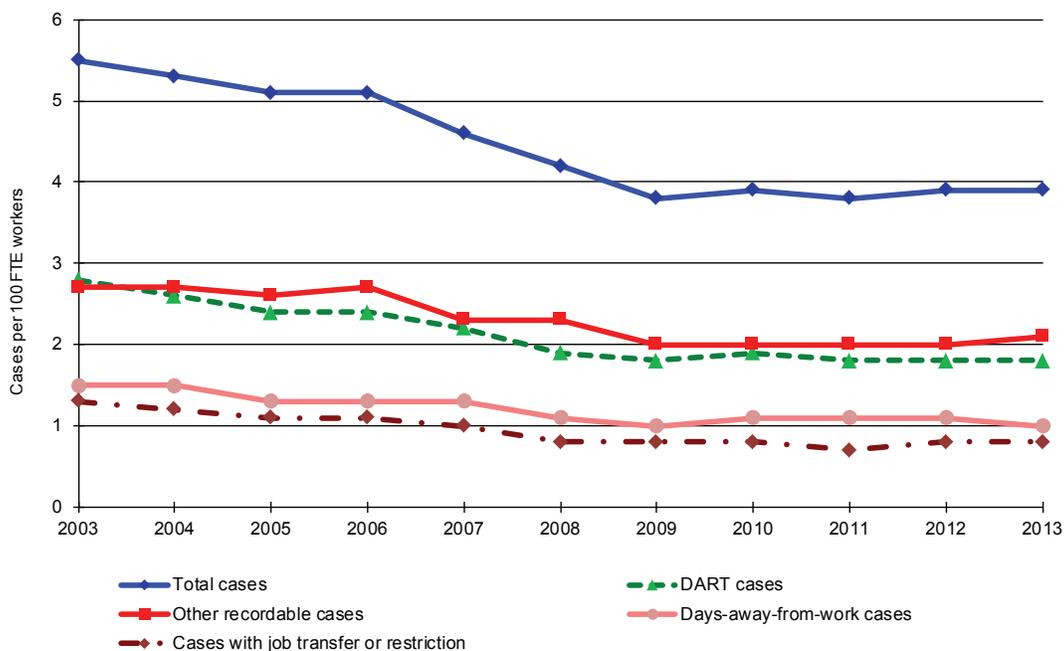
The survey estimated the number of Minnesota’s nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses to be 81,200 for 2013, up from 77,600 for 2012. Taking into account the statistical error range of the annual estimates, the change in the number of cases was not statistically significant.

Minnesota’s employment covered by the survey increased from 2.52 million in 2012 to 2.58 million in 2013.

For the survey, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry collected injury and illness records from randomly sampled Minnesota employers in the private and public sectors (excluding federal agencies). Approximately 4,800 employers participated in the 2013 survey. State agencies and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) compile the nationwide survey data, which is the primary source of workplace injury and illness statistics at the state and national levels.

Nationally, an estimated 3.8 million nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses were reported in private- and public-sector workplaces for 2013, resulting in a rate of 3.5 cases per 100 FTE workers.

Injury and illness case incidence rates, private and public sectors, Minnesota, 2003-2013



SOII sauce ...

Other results from the Minnesota survey

The 2013 Minnesota survey estimated 37,200 injuries and illnesses resulting in days away from work, job transfers or restrictions after the day of injury. The rate of these cases was 1.8 per 100 FTE workers, unchanged from 2012 and 2011.

An estimated 1.0 cases per 100 FTE workers in 2013 led to one or more days away from work after the day of injury, slightly lower than the 2012 estimate of 1.1 cases per 100 FTE workers, but not statistically significant.

The industry divisions with the highest total injury and illness rates were local government (6.2 cases per 100 FTE workers); construction (6.0); agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (5.9); and health care and social assistance (5.5).

Cases with one or more days away from work

The BLS also produces tables about the characteristics of the injured worker and their injuries for cases with one or more days away from work. In general, the distribution of the characteristics for 2013 is very similar to the patterns for the two previous years.

Men accounted for 59 percent of the injured workers, the same as in 2012. The percentage of injured workers age 55 to 64 has increased by one percentage point each of the past two years, while the percentage of injured workers 20 to 24 years old has decreased.

Workers in service occupations accounted for 25 percent of the cases, followed by transportation and material moving (15 percent) and by production occupations (13 percent).

The median number of days away from work decreased from six days in both 2011 and 2012 to five days in 2013.

The most frequent events causing injuries with days away from work were overexertion and bodily reaction (38 percent), falls, slips and trips (28 percent), and contact with objects and equipment (21 percent). Sprains, strains and tears was the most common type of injury (35 percent), followed by soreness and pain (22 percent). Ice, sleet or snow was involved in 10 percent of the 2013 injuries, up from 6 percent in both 2011 and 2012. This is consistent with the increased snowfall in much of Minnesota during calendar-year 2013 compared with 2011 and 2012.

Minnesota data tables are available on the DLI website at www.dli.mn.gov/RS/StatWSH.asp. National data tables are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/iif/oshsum.htm.



Assaults to hospital employees; tracking workers' comp claims

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

Although it is not news to hospital workers and to safety professionals, assaults to hospital workers have captured the public's attention because of a few recent high-profile incidents. The Department of Labor and Industry is able to track the number of hospital employees with workers' compensation indemnity

claims due to assaults. Workers' compensation claims are classified as indemnity claims when the work-related injury results in a disability of more than three calendar-days, payment of permanent partial disability benefits or payment of a claims settlement. Claims are identified as part of the hospital industry based on the employer's self-report; clinics associated with hospital systems might be included as hospitals instead of a different type of health care establishment. Assaults include intentional assaults,

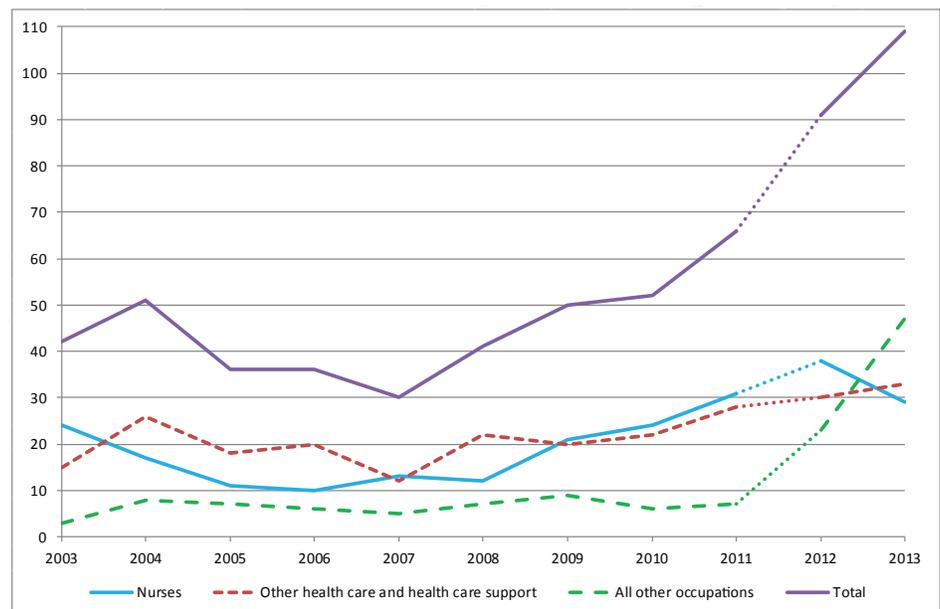


unintentional assaults and cases where the other person's intent is unknown. Assaults due to sporting events, physical training or during horseplay are excluded.

As shown in the figure below, the number of hospital workers with assault claims resulting in indemnity benefits has increased since reaching a low count of 30 claims in 2007, increasing each subsequent year to reach 109 claims in 2013.

Preliminary figures for 2014 indicate it will have a count close to the 2013 total. The lines between the 2011 and 2012 numbers are dashes to indicate the coding system used to identify assaults and violent acts was revised, and it is possible some injuries that would be coded as assaults under the new system were not coded as assaults under the former system. Therefore, comparisons with years before and after the coding change must be made cautiously.

Number of workers' compensation indemnity claims for assaults in Minnesota hospitals, 2003-2013



Source: Minnesota workers' compensation claims database.

The figure also shows the number of assault indemnity claims by workers in different occupation groups. The nurses occupation category includes both registered nurses and licensed practical nurses. The “other health care and health care support” occupations includes nursing aides, therapists and health technicians. Among the occupations included in “all other” are personal care aids, social service workers and security guards. As shown in the figure, the increase in assault claims to workers in the “all other occupations” group was a key driver in the recent increase in assault indemnity claims in hospitals.



Further examination of the increase in recent years shows that the high count in 2013 was due to 32 assault claims to security guards, 24 of whom worked in state government hospitals. There had never been more than nine security guard assault claims in any previous year. It is difficult to say how much of the increase in the assault claims was due to an actual increase in assaults to hospital workers, to the change in how assaults are coded and to changes in workers reporting these injuries to their employers.

Notes from the undercount:

Addressing measurement issues with the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

By Brian Zaidman, Research and Statistics

“Notes from the undercount” is a series presenting results and ideas from the Department of Labor and Industry’s (DLI’s) ongoing efforts to understand and reduce the undercount of cases in the annual Survey of Occupational injuries and Illnesses. DLI has been actively participating in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ research program about this issue.

The goal of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ (BLS’) Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) is to provide annual estimates of the number and rate of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses for the nation and for each of the participating states. The SOII relies on the national OSHA recordkeeping requirements to determine which injuries and illnesses participating employers need to include in their survey submissions. Consequently, the injury and illness recordkeeper’s understanding of OSHA recordkeeping requirements is essential for accurate reporting of workplace injuries through the SOII. Because the SOII is an estimate of occupational injuries and illnesses, not a census, nearly every establishment’s response is weighted to represent additional establishments, so any reporting errors are magnified.

The power of the SOII is based on the ability of the BLS to combine data from all the states into national estimates to provide industry benchmarks and for the public to be able to compare the same industry in different states. Because of the larger sample size, the national estimates can be published at a level of

industry detail that is not available in many individual states and they can often be published by establishment size within that industry. The data from the different states can be combined because they are all collected according to national OSHA recordkeeping standards.



Epidemiologists and economists have criticized the SOII for undercounting the number of injuries and illnesses. Recent research has shown that many cases that should be included on OSHA logs, SOII reports and in workers' compensation claims databases are missing. Estimates of the SOII undercount by various researchers range from 20 to 70 percent, depending on the methodology employed and the state studied. For a brief review of undercount research, see appendix D in the *Minnesota Workplace Safety Report, 2010*, online at www.dli.mn.gov/RS/pdf/saferpt10.pdf.

The BLS has been engaged in research to understand the reasons for the SOII's undercount of injuries and illnesses. Following qualitative studies by BLS researchers and researchers from Washington state using in-person interviews with SOII respondents, researchers from Minnesota, New York, Oregon and Washington surveyed SOII respondents from 2011 and 2012 to provide further measurements of SOII respondents' knowledge and their application of OSHA recordkeeping standards in the maintenance and reporting of injury and illness records to the BLS through the SOII.

Research teams from the four states, under BLS guidance, developed a survey and interviewed SOII participants during 2013 and 2014. The survey covered the following topics:

- the establishment's OSHA log recordkeeping process;
- how injury and illness records are maintained;
- how the SOII is completed;
- OSHA recordkeeper and SOII respondent experience, training and responsibilities;
- knowledge of and adherence to OSHA recordkeeping requirements; and
- establishment policies, safety programs and business uses for injury and illness measures that might influence reporting and recording of worker injuries.

The research teams found that a significant portion of the people responsible for submitting injury and illness data to BLS are not proficient in OSHA log recordkeeping requirements. Subsequent entries in this series will provide details of Minnesota's findings and discuss the quest for accurate measurements.

OSHA answers

frequently asked questions

As part of its continual effort to improve customer service and provide needed information to employers and employees, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance answers the most frequently asked questions from the previous quarter.

Q. Did the changes in the federal Part 1904 Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses standard take effect in Minnesota on Jan. 1, 2015?

A. No, changes to OSHA's *injury reporting* rule became effective at the federal level Jan. 1, 2015. Minnesota OSHA intends to adopt the new *injury reporting* requirements by March 18, 2015, with an effective date of Oct. 1, 2015.

Changes to OSHA's *recordkeeping* requirements (for low-hazard industries) will not be adopted by Minnesota OSHA, which is consistent with what is currently in effect in Minnesota.

Reminder: MNOSHA has not adopted 1904.2 Partial Exemption for Establishments in Certain Industries. All employers in Minnesota with more than 10 employees must maintain an OSHA Form 300 Log of Work-related Injuries and Illnesses regardless of industry classification.

Q. Does MNOSHA Compliance regulate the excavation and removal of sand for shipment to North Dakota for "fracking"?

A. No, sand mining falls under the auspices of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration, a separate organization of the U.S. Department of Labor. For more information, visit its website at www.msha.gov or call its North Central District office in Duluth, Minnesota, at (218) 720-5448.

Q. Why can't a climbing harness be used instead of a personal fall-arrest system when performing roofing work?

A. Manufacturers design a climbing harness to be a restraint, with a D-ring hooked to the front of the harness while climbing facing a ladder. This prevents the person from free falling from the ladder. When roofing, there is a potential for the worker to free fall, necessitating the fall be stopped or arrested. Manufacturers design fall-arrest harnesses with a D-ring on the worker's back, located between the shoulder blades. This puts the worker in an arrest situation where he or she can then be rescued.

Do you have a question for Minnesota OSHA? To get an answer, call (651) 284-5050 or send an email message to osha.compliance@state.mn.us. Your question may be featured here.

Nominations for DLI safety award recipient due March 30



Arthur E. McCauley

Nominations for the annual Arthur E. McCauley Jr., Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Leadership Award are being accepted through March 30. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) seeks to honor a safety or health professional who is an example of safety excellence.

The award is named for former Minnesota Safety Council member Arthur E. McCauley Jr., whose work as a safety professional encompassed the attributes of this award. McCauley was regarded for his work as a member of the Minnesota Safety Council and the Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Council. He was known for his dedication and tireless efforts to improved the safety and health of Minnesota's workplaces.

More information and the nomination form are online at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/McCauleyAward.asp. Interested parties may also contact Pam McLaughlin at (651) 284-5460 or pam.mclaughlin@state.mn.us.

Report offers look at Minnesota OSHA, other state-plan states

An annual publication of the Occupational Safety and Health State Plan Association (OSHSPA), GRASSROOTS Workplace Protection describes the innovative approaches to creative partnerships, outreach and education, voluntary compliance, inspection targeting and settlement agreements that have been developed by the 27

U.S. states and territories that operate state occupational safety and health plans that are at least as effective as federal OSHA.

The Minnesota chapter of the report, the complete report and archived reports are online at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Reports.asp.

Experts available for speaking engagements

Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) staff members regularly speak to community, industry and school groups about issues that affect employees, employers and other DLI stakeholders.

As part of its outreach efforts to stakeholders, DLI's speakers bureau can provide interested parties with a knowledgeable speaker in an array of topics.

- Apprenticeship programs and opportunities
- Construction codes and licensing
- Occupational safety and health topics or free consultation assistance
- Wage and hour requirements
- Workers' compensation coverage, reporting and claims issues
- Workers' compensation dispute resolution
- Workers' compensation ombudsman services.

For more details or to place a request for a speaker, visit www.dli.mn.gov/Speakers.asp.



New NIOSH ergonomics guidebook

By Breca Tschida, Ergonomics Program Coordinator

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has recently published *Ergonomic Solutions for Retailers*, a free 23-page guide to help grocery retailers minimize the injury risk factors associated with manual material handling. It is available online at www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2015-100.



There is still a strong tendency to assume people can manually lift and move materials continually without incident, if they use proper lifting techniques. The reality is that if an object weighs too much and is lifted too often, lift techniques alone will not prevent injury.

NIOSH recommends a 51-pound maximum lift under ideal conditions. This limit drops significantly as other factors are considered, such as: lift height and distance, horizontal distance the object is held from the body, the ability to easily grasp the object, twisting during the lift, lift repetition and duration of the work being done.

Repeated exertions can gradually result in long-term injuries that can be difficult to manage. Particularly susceptible is the lower back, where ongoing exertions can contribute to micro-tears in vertebral discs and pain that originates from the spine and associated nerves, joints and muscles. Eventually, pain, tingling and muscle tightness can reach the lower extremities causing weakness and imbalance in strength and flexibility.

Shoulders, arms and knees are other body parts commonly affected by excessive manual lifting and moving.

Use the guide as a tool to help determine the best options for your material handling tasks, to minimize risk factors that contribute to worker injuries. The material handling solutions provided in the guide can be considered a resource for not only grocery but also for other retail settings that perform similar material handling activities.

Coming soon! Web-based safety grant application

A new Web-based grant application will soon be available on the Safety Grants Program Web page.

The program will:

- allow users to save a partially completed application for completion at another time;
- allow users to download the required attachments to accompany the application;
- prevent the application from being saved as “final” until all information has been entered; and
- provide helpful hints with more information throughout the application process.

The application is currently in the testing stage, so a specific roll-out date has not yet been set. When available, the new safety grant application will be at www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Grants.asp.



'Who's in charge here?'

Employers, staffing agencies share safety training responsibility



Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) continues its partnership with Hennepin Technical College to provide education to employers and staffing agencies about the shared responsibilities to provide safety training to temporary workers.

After a successful symposium in September, additional symposiums are tentatively being planned for Duluth, Mankato and Moorhead to provide staffing agencies and host employers a venue to ask questions and better understand the shared responsibilities for temporary-worker safety.

Presentations about temporary-worker safety are also scheduled for the Safety Day conference in Bemidji in April and the annual Minnesota Safety Council safety and health conference in Minneapolis in May.

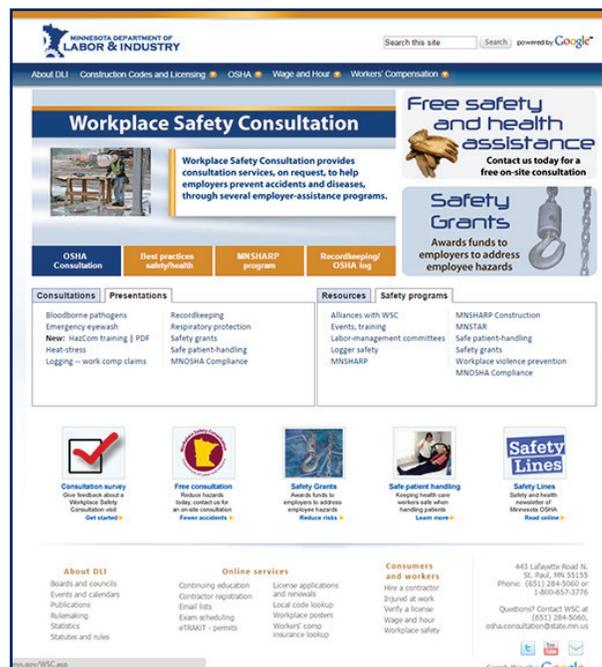
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brochures, banners, mailings, online ads, Web pages, conference participation, and other training and outreach presentations WCS has communicated the availability of its services. In addition, with assistance from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, notifications about available WSC safety and health services are sent to new employers.

WSC website updates

During federal-fiscal-year 2014, the main WSC Web page – www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc.asp – had 14,983 pageviews. Updates to its Web pages during the year included:

- posting the most current MNOSHA WSC strategic plan;
- adding a bloodborne pathogens page, with links to a self-inspection checklist for schools, the compliance directive, presentations about exposure control and a link to the federal OSHA website;
- creating a hazardous communications (HazCom) presentation that can be used to educate employees about the new labeling requirements and safety data sheet (SDS) format that will be required under the revised Hazard Communication standard;
- expanding the resource links on the ergonomics page, with reference guides and assessment tools; and
- linking to the current *Minnesota Workplace Safety Report* that summarizes workplace injury and illness rates and characteristics in Minnesota.



Alliances

WSC established three new alliances to promote collaboration about workplace safety and health.

- **Mexican Consulate:** In support of a memorandum of understanding between the Mexican consulate and Minnesota OSHA, WSC participated in the Mexican Consulate’s celebration of Labor Week. The educational event was conducted for Mexican workers to learn about their rights in the workplace and to inform employers about their responsibilities to protect workers. WSC presented about its available services.
- **Arrowhead Builders Association:** WSC formed an alliance with Arrowhead Builders Association to provide opportunities for education and training to area contractors and their supporting industries.
- **Minnesota State Colleges and Universities – Riverland Community College:** This alliance was established to further promote workplace safety at the campus through on-site technical assistance and training. Additionally, opportunities to introduce occupational safety and health into existing curriculums will be established to introduce students to pertinent safety and health topics before they enter the workforce. The initial collaboration will be about introducing the concept of safe patient-handling into the college’s radiography curriculum.

Other collaborations and outreach

WSC participated in a Temporary Worker Safety Symposium hosted by Hennepin Technical College, which established a foundation for further outreach and education about temporary worker safety through the college, WSC and the Minnesota Recruiting and Staffing Association. There were 71 participants in the event that included speakers from Minnesota OSHA, Hennepin Technical College, employers that hire temporary workers and staffing agencies.

WSC participated in 27 training presentations for various labor and professional associations, covering construction safety and health topics, including: fall protection, the revised Hazard Communication standard, developing an A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction (AWAIR) program, the focus-four hazards in construction, health standards in construction and other OSHA 10-hour topics. This is part of an ongoing involvement with each of the groups.



WSC participated in 14 training presentations for various professional and academic associations, covering topics such as the revised Hazard Communication standard, confined-space entry, frequently cited MNOSHA standards, machine guarding, hazardous waste operations and emergency response (HAZWOPER) and hazard identification.

WSC remained active in four construction trade apprenticeship programs, promoting workplace safety to young and minority workers, and initiated a second campaign to promote teen worker safety. School districts within Minnesota were included in an email blitz that provided information about teen safety and rights in the workplace. The distribution reached approximately 1,800 school counselors, work-based learning coordinators and lobbyists that represent organizations that hire a significant number of minors, with the expectation they would provide the information to students prior to the end of the school year.

WSC’s ergonomics program continued its education and outreach about safe patient-handling by hosting meetings, providing technical assistance and assisting networking among area hospitals and professional groups. The program also began talking with area emergency medical responders to identify and implement safe patient-handling concepts that fit that group’s needs. The program also concluded an alliance with a long-term-care group, providing on-site technical assistance and training to pre-determined health care sites.

Workplace violence prevention remained a topic area of interest, resulting in 22 workplace violence prevention presentations and two on-site visits to provide technical assistance – one visit was the result of a workplace homicide. The program also continues to work with the Department of Human Services to further promote and develop workplace violence prevention programs for individual facilities and the agency as a whole.



Recognition programs

The Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (MNSHARP) and the Minnesota Star (MNSTAR) Program have remained active for both general industry and construction. Each program is administered to provide employer incentive and recognition for worksites that have achieved a high level of safety and health excellence, recognized through reduced injury and illness rates and implementation of safety management systems.

MNSHARP is dedicated to smaller employer worksites – less than 250 employees at the site and less than 500 company-wide. The program provides ongoing assistance to guide employers committed to achieving safety excellence. During the federal-fiscal-year 2014, one new general industry worksite was certified and 14 existing MNSHARP worksites were recertified. Two new construction worksites were certified, seven other sites attained the pre-MNSHARP level and one existing MNSHARP construction worksite was recertified. Overall, 39 general industry and eight construction industry worksites maintained MNSHARP certification.

The MNSTAR Program is available to any size general industry employer or resident contractor of a current MNSTAR Program worksite that can demonstrate implementation of an effective safety and health management system through submission of an application and on-site evaluation. The program is the Minnesota equivalent of federal OSHA’s Voluntary Protection Program. During federal-fiscal-year 2014, six new worksites were certified and seven worksites were recertified. A total of 41 employers maintained certification in the program, 39 as STAR sites and two as Merit sites.



Safety grants

The Safety Grant Program awards funds up to \$10,000 for qualifying employers for projects designed to reduce the risk of injury and illness to their employees. Applicants must be able to initially fund the project to qualify for a reimbursement of matching grant funds. From July 1, 2013, through June 30,

2014, \$1,010,078 was distributed through 144 safety grants to private- and public-sector employers representing long-term health care, construction, logging, manufacturing, schools and municipalities. Items purchased with grant funds included: fall protection, excavation and other construction safety equipment, safe-patient-handling equipment, material-handling and other equipment to reduce ergonomic risk factors, specialized personal protective equipment, logging equipment with added safeguards, ventilation systems, equipment for confined-space entry, funding for training and other process improvement equipment that reduced injury risk.

Improving WSC programs

WSC participated in two internal events to improve: the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the safety grants application and review process; and WSC’s internal quality assurance program. As a result, the safety grant application submission process is now online only and the application review process will be revised to maintain more consistency in determining which applications will receive grant awards. The internal quality assurance process was revised to eliminate redundancy and time in maintaining report files.

WSC participated in a the state’s “Plain language initiative,” to incorporate simple wording and easy-to-read layout of information the public receives. WSC’s first effort was a revision of its initial-visit confirmation letter to more effectively summarize the content of the letter. Revisions in wording and formatting resulted in more readable and easily understood letter content.

WSC event: Principles of Safe Patient Handling and Mobility



Presenter Haken Skenhede, of Handicare, works with participants during MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation’s “Principles of Safe Patient Handling and Mobility” event Oct. 20 at the Department of Labor and Industry in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Skenhede’s presentation aimed to inspire, motivate and excite professionals in the fields of safety, therapy, ergonomics, nursing and safe patient-handling. Topics included balance, natural pattern, standing up/sitting down, safe walking, positioning higher in bed, turning in bed, challenging behavior and a review of some unique applications.



MNOSHA Compliance signs safety, health partnerships

Minnesota OSHA Compliance recently signed Level 3 Cooperative Compliance Partnerships with Graham Construction Services, M.A. Mortenson Company and Parsons Electric.

Level 3 is the peak level of MNOSHA Compliance partnerships, with applicants striving to be an industry leader with very comprehensive safety and health programs. To qualify, participants must have reached Level 2 and remained there for at least one year.

M.A. Mortenson Company signed partnerships for two projects. The first project is at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, scheduled for completion in November 2015. Mortenson's second partnership, Block E, in Minneapolis, is shared with Parsons Electric, which is working jointly on the project. Block E is scheduled for completion in May 2015.

Graham Construction Services signed its partnership for the Boynton Health Services Building project on the University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis. The project is scheduled for completion in May 2015.

The partnerships with MNOSHA Compliance and Associated General Contractors of Minnesota members recognize those contractors where managers and employees work together to develop safety and health management systems that go beyond basic compliance with all applicable OSHA standards and result in immediate and long-term prevention of job-related injuries and illnesses. MNOSHA Compliance also has a partnership program with the Minnesota Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors. Learn more at www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/Partnerships.asp.



M.A. Mortenson Company – Metropolitan State University



M.A. Mortenson Company, Parsons Electric – Block E



Graham Construction Services – Boynton Health Services Building

Free Construction Seminars cover important topics, start discussions

The MNOSHA Compliance Construction Seminars feature a presentation about a specific construction safety or health topic – with time for questions, answers and input – plus an update from MNOSHA Compliance about what’s currently happening regarding investigations.

The seminars are presented in a panel discussion format, which provides a safe environment for participants to ask real worksite questions and get real worksite safety and health solutions.

The seminars are at the MnDOT Training and Conference Center, 1900 W. Cty. Road I, Shoreview, MN. The facility is state of the art and has plenty of free parking. Directions are available at www.dot.mn.gov/hr/trngctr/contacts.html. Doors open at 6:30 a.m. and the program begins at 7 a.m.

2014/2015 Construction Seminar dates, topics

- **Sept. 16, 2014** – Confined space in construction
- **Nov. 18, 2014** – Exposure to silica; respirator programs
- **Jan. 13, 2015** – A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction (AWAIR) program; basic safety programs; and GHS
- **March 17, 2015** – Residential fall-protection
- **May 19, 2015** – Traffic control and workzone safety

Visit www.dli.mn.gov/OSHA/ConstructionSeminars.asp for complete information and to register (available closer to the seminar dates) or to be added to the mailing list.

Minnesota's newest **MNSHARP** worksite

The Lou-Rich Assembly Plant in Albert Lea, Minnesota, was recognized recently by the Department of Labor and Industry as a Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (MNSHARP) worksite.

MNSHARP is a Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MNOSHA) program that recognizes companies where managers and employees work together to develop safety and health programs that go beyond basic compliance with all applicable OSHA standards and result in immediate and long-term prevention of job-related injuries and illnesses.

Learn more about MNSHARP at www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc/Mnsharp.asp.



Lou-Rich Assembly Plant in Albert Lea, Minnesota